Memorandum on PDS

2609. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from All India Fair Price Shop Dealers Federation Delhi, regarding Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The Memorandum from All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation offers suggestions relating to improvement and streamlining of the PDS, which *inter alia,* include identification of beneficiaries, viability of fair price shops, sale of commodities by fair price shops and amendment to PDS (Control) Order.

(c) The reform of the PDS to improve its efficiency and effectiveness is an ongoing process. The views and suggestions received from various quarters from time to time are taken into consideration while formulating policy.

Foodgrains for Ration Card Holders

2610. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons below poverty line in the country at present;

(b) what is the number of ration cards issued to them in order to enable them to purchase foodgrains at low rates; and

(c) what is the quantity of foodgrains to which a person below poverty line is entitled per month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) As per the estimate of the Planning Commission based on the survey conducted in 1999-2000 by National Sample Survey